

### FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL

#### Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools

by State Fire Marshal Terry Maple

The Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools (KCSPS) is working with the Adjutant and Attorney Generals, the Kansas State Department of Education and a variety of partners to help local school districts be better prepared for dealing with emergencies and disasters in their communities.

Severe weather has already shown the need for having an established plan of action, and ensuring that community leaders know who they can contact in these events. For local schools, the need to have a properly developed and practiced Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is a vital part of this planning. A District EOP is an overview of the district's approach to emergency operations. It should describe the school district, its emergency management response policy, any procedures and assigned tasks. The primary audience for the EOP should be the administrative staff, the Board of Education and the local first responders.

The EOP plays a vital role in helping responders contain and mitigate any disasters, but a plan is only good when it is practiced and kept current. It is a recommended practice to put your plan on an annual basis. These practices can be as simple as a tabletop exercise all the way to a full-blown scenario-based event. Regardless of what kind of practice is used, representatives from all of the agencies involved should be invited to participate.

A Safe and Prepared Schools conference is scheduled for September 24-25 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn about developing their EOP's, establishing partnerships, threat assessment and Sexual/Domestic violence. Participants will also be able to attend workshops for youth bullying, culture learning, and sports injuries. More information about the conference will be sent out to schools in the near future. The conference website is:

<http://events.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=467>.

The OSFM is pleased to support KCSPS and the efforts of the Safe and Prepared Schools working group. To find out more information about the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools, please visit their website at: <http://www.kansastag.gov/kdem.asp?PageID=191>.

### FROM THE CHIEF, BRENDA MCNORTON

We are well into Summer and school enrollment is right around the corner! I would like to take this time to remind school districts to have your fire prevention policies and drill records in place and ready to go. Conduct a review of what was in place last year and compare that to last years fire inspection report. Do you need to make any improvements?

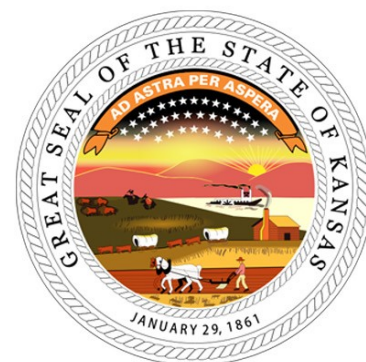
Additionally, for all occupancies that we inspect, please make sure you are providing complete and accurate contact information to your fire inspectors. We use that information to send you the final inspection report, follow-up correspondence, and other important fire prevention information. There has been a significant increase in inaccurate or incomplete contact information being provided and/or documented. We have stressed this to our inspection staff as well.

I encourage everyone to contact me if you have concerns about anything that you've been told or concerns that you may have.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and be safe!

#### Inside this issue:

Safe Schools	1
From the Chief	1
Healthcare Corner	2
K-12	2
Home Daycare	3
Propane Licensing	3
Propane Marketers Conf.	4
Fireworks Safety 2012	4
Sleepover Checklist	5
Test Your Skills	6
Above Ground Tanks	7
Current Code Editions	6
Local Jurisdiction Reports	7
Fire Extinguisher Inspection	8



## HEALTHCARE CORNER: EGRESS DOORS

By: Barb Sumpter,  
Enforcement Officer

General concepts of NFPA 101, 2012 ed., regarding requirement for egress door locking. Always look to section 2 of a specific occupancy type for more information regarding egress requirements.

Definition of exit egress is the travel path to a public way (moving to a safe place), which is required in all occupancies. All exits are to be readily available and open in the direction of egress. Some occupancy types allow for doors to be locked for the purposes of clinical needs, in which case all staff must carry keys.

Ingress vs. Egress: NFPA 101 is concerned with Egress only (how to get out of the building). It does not govern Ingress, which can be found in NFPA 1.

Doors in any egress consist of:

- Exit access (corridors, hallway, etc. leading to the exit)
- Exit (Stairway, exit door)
- Exit Discharge (travel from exit to the public way)

Visit us online!  
[www.ksfm.ks.gov](http://www.ksfm.ks.gov)

Chapter 7 of NFPA 101, covers general requirements for doors:

locks/latches; stairway doors; horizontal exits; door size; door operation; release mechanisms; panic hardware; delayed egress (15 and 30 second); signage; access controlled doors (controlled by sensors); electrically controlled doors (new in the 2009 ed); elevator lobby required exit access (new in 2009 ed); key-operated doors; stairway re-entry; security grills (found as an exception in 7.2.1.)

Detention/Correctional (Chapters 22 and 23)

- Allows locked doors for security purposes – controlled by staff 24/7
- Staff must carry keys at all times and have continuous training to ensure initiation within 2 minutes of alarm sounding

Healthcare (Chapters 18 and 19)

- Allowance for doors to be locked: clinical needs (dementia/Alzheimer's); poses a security threat; and protection for patient's own safety
- Staff must carry keys at all times and have continuous training
- Only one locking device per patient room door
- Egress doors may be disguised in certain areas (Dementia/Alzheimer's units)

Special Needs – i.e., maternity ward (does not include clinical needs)

- Doors may be locked if 5 criteria are met: complete smoke detection; fully sprinklered; remote location release device; release upon loss of power; release upon activation of alarm or sprinkler system

Obstructions

- Ensure continuous policing of means of egress to ensure they remain available and accessible at all times

---

***"Be Rabbit Ready, Have 2 ways out!"*** - Sparky the Fire Dog (United States Fire Administration)

---

## K-12: FIRE DRILLS

We have already started to get phone calls asking about the location of the 2012-2013 fire and tornado drill forms. These can be downloaded from <http://www.ksfm.ks.gov/forms-recordkeeping/>

Kansas Statue requires that all schools conduct at least one fire drill each month at some time during school hours.

Fire drills shall be:

- Unannounced; and
- Conducted using the fire alarm system

Fire drills shall include:

- All floors, wings, and sections of the building; and
- Complete evacuation by all persons within the building

All doors and exits shall be kept unlocked and unobstructed during all hours while the building is occupied. It is important to remember that an "exit" consists of the exit access, the exit door, and the exit discharge. It does no good to maintain a clear and unobstructed exit door, if the pathway to the exit door is obstructed!

We encourage all facilities to take the time before school starts to review your fire drill procedures. Make sure to discuss the procedures with all staff. Everyone needs to know what their role is and how important it is that they participate.

## HOME DAYCARE CENTRAL: TAMPER RESISTANT OUTLETS

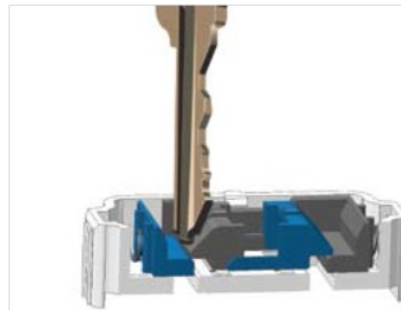
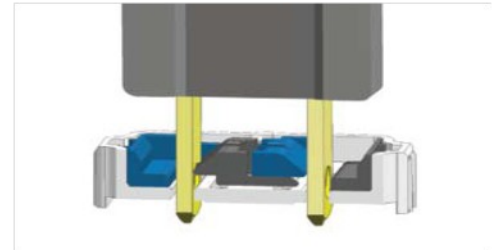
*By: Mike Wickle,  
Fire Protection Specialist*

It has long been a requirement that protective outlet covers be installed on electrical receptacles/outlets in home daycare facilities in order to prevent children from tampering with outlets. However, there is now a tamper-resistant (TR) receptacle available that can be installed in dwellings that would no longer require the use of protective outlet covers. The receptacles contain a spring-loaded shutter mechanism which allows plugs to enter, but resists access to single-pronged items such as keys, hairpins or nails.

The 2008 edition of the National Electric Code (NEC) requires that all newly built, remodeled, or renovated single- or multi-family dwelling shall install and/or replace outlets with TR receptacles and they shall be of a type classified and listed as Tamper-Resistant (TR). Even if a receptacle is dedicated to a specific use and not readily accessible, they must be tamper resistant. You should find the letters "TR" in the upper right corner of the outlet with a circle around it (see photo), which identifies that it is a Tamper-Resistant receptacle. NEC Article 210.52 specifies where receptacles shall be installed.

The tamper-resistant code requirement is all about safety. Statistics show that thousands of children suffer from electrical outlet related injuries every year. Hospitals and pediatric

areas have used them for years, so it only makes sense to install them in our homes as well. The additional cost is minimal, but well worth it when it's been proven effective in saving the lives of our children.



*"TR" engraved on face  
indicating the outlet is  
tamper resistant.*

---

***"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." - Dr. Seuss***

---

## PROPANE LICENSING

*By: Adam Lespreance,  
Enforcement Officer*

We have started the annual propane license renewal process. In this years renewal packet, you will see a letter with information regarding your training documentation which you will have not seen in the past. The letter is provided to help clarify the requirements for training and certification for your employees. This certification is required by K.A.R. 22-6.x and is necessary for our office to keep current, accurate records for all licenses; it also ensures that all propane companies doing business in Kansas have properly trained employees who are knowledgeable in the daily activities of the propane industry.

We have received many questions regarding the licensing documentation necessary, one of the more frequent questions is *"Does the OSFM need training documentation for each employee?"* The answer is no we do not. OSFM will only require a CTEP certification for one employee trained for each of the licenses the company is renewing. It will be up to the company to provide training to other employees if it is deemed necessary by their job duties. This certification requires a refresher class every 3-years, if your certification is due for a refresher this year, be sure to send the refresher certification in with your license application.

Training for propane employees can be obtained by contacting the Propane Marketers Association of Kansas (PMAK), please contact Greg Knoll by email at [gregknoll@pmak.org](mailto:gregknoll@pmak.org) or by phone at (785) 354-1749. I appreciate your cooperation and compliance as we get everyone up to date. If you have questions please feel free to contact me at [adam.lespreance@ksfm.ks.gov](mailto:adam.lespreance@ksfm.ks.gov) or by phone, (785) 296-3401.





## CONTRACTORS AND VENDORS

*The Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office (KSFM) works with many state and national companies to provide safety, education, and services to the citizens and industries of the State of Kansas. This publication is provided by the KSFM as a public service. The KSFM does not assume any liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, product or process described. Reference to any specific commercial product, process, service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not constitute or imply its endorsement or recommendation by the KSFM. The views and opinions of the authors of any articles included in this publication do not necessarily state or reflect those of the KSFM.*

## Propane Marketers Attend Conference on Propane Safety, Innovation

Nearly 300 propane marketers, employees, suppliers and industry officials participated recently in the Mid-States Propane Expo, held June 18-21 in Overland Park, Kansas. The event celebrated the industry's centennial anniversary while also providing safety training and technology announcements that can assist marketers in better ways to operate their businesses.

The conference was designed to bring together the Midwest's leading propane firms to talk about how to control costs to better serve consumers, ensure safety and customer service, and review some of the latest products and innovations. Highlights of the meeting included:

- A presentation on the new opportunities to help communities address air quality issues through the deployment of propane-powered fleets and equipment. Propane, also known as "autogas" in this segment, produces fewer harmful greenhouse gas emissions than gas or diesel and has a host of other environmental benefits. In addition, autogas costs less than conventional fuels and is not prone to theft or spillage.
- One of the industry's leading insurance companies provided essential information on how propane companies can increase safety through attention to internal processes and staff review. Making sure that drivers and technicians stay current on operating policies and new regulations results in lower premium expense which helps keep costs down.
- A review of the world energy market reveals that propane prices are trending lower due to increased supply from domestic production. While world demand is also pulling some propane overseas, there appears to be plenty of supply for the Midwest. The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration shows other fuel prices steady or higher. Some believe that natural gas prices are economically unsustainable at their current levels, and may increase as an oversupply may result in production cutbacks.

The Mid-States Propane Expo is hosted by a consortium of the Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri propane gas associations, not-for-profit trade groups organized to promote propane safety and industry growth.

*Information Provided By: Greg Knoll  
Executive Vice President  
Propane Marketers Assoc. of Kansas  
(785) 354-1749*

## FIREWORKS SAFETY 2012

### Executive Summary

In 2010, 8,600 fireworks-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms.

In 2010, an estimated 15,500 reported fires were started by fireworks. These fires resulted in an estimated eight reported civilian deaths, 60 civilian injuries and \$36 million in direct property damage.

### Fires involving fireworks

During 2006-2010, the largest numbers of outdoor fires associated with fireworks involved grass fires (7,800 per year), brush fires (5,200), dumpster fires (2,000), unclassified or unknown-type natural or vegetation fires (1,500) and other outside trash, rubbish, or waste fires (1,400).

In 2006-2010, five people per year were killed in fires started by fireworks, while data from death certificates show that six people per year were killed directly by fireworks. These estimates may overlap, because fireworks can directly kill someone while also starting a fatal fire.

*(Continued on page 5)*

The risk of fire death relative to usage shows fireworks to be more risky per hour of usage than cigarettes. On Independence Day in a typical year, far more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day and more than twice as many as on an average day. Fireworks account for two out of five of those fires, more than any other cause of fires.

### Emergency room injuries related to fireworks

The trend in fireworks-related injuries has been mostly in the range of 8,300 to 9,800 since 1996, except for spikes in 2000, primarily due to celebrations around the advent of a new millennium, and in 2004, and a sharp drop in 2008. Injuries were higher in 1984-1995 than in 1996 and later years.

Two of five (39%) victims of fireworks injuries in 2010 were under age 15. The highest rates of injuries per million population were for children aged 5 to 9 and 10 to 14. Males accounted for nearly two-thirds (65%) of fireworks injuries.

The majority (57%) of 2010 fireworks injuries were to extremities – hand or finger (30%), leg (22%), and arm, shoulder, or wrist (5%). Most of the rest (37% of total) were to parts of the head, including the eye (21% of total).

In 2010, five out of six (83%) emergency room fireworks injuries involved fireworks that Federal regulations permit consumers to use. Sparklers, fountains, and novelties alone accounted for two out of five (43%) emergency room fireworks injuries.

---

## SLEEPOVER CHECKLIST

---

A checklist to help parents and caregivers consider hazards and make decisions about slumber parties and sleepovers.

"Before you permit your child to sleep over with a friend, talk to the child's parents," says Judy Comoletti, NFPA's Division Manager for Public Education. "Depending on what you learn, it can either uncover serious fire dangers or give you peace of mind during your child's sleepover."

### Before you say "yes"

- ☐ How well do you know the home?
- ☐ Is the home clean? Does it appear to be structurally sound?
- ☐ Is the home in a safe area?
- ☐ If the home has [security bars on doors and windows](#), do you know for certain that the bars have quick release devices inside, so your child could get out in an emergency?
- ☐ Is your child comfortable in the home and with all the occupants?
- ☐ Are you comfortable leaving your child in the home overnight?

### How well do you know the parent(s)?

- ☐ Are they mature, responsible and conscientious?
- ☐ Will they supervise the children throughout the stay?
- ☐ Are they cautious with [smoking materials](#), matches and lighters, and candles?

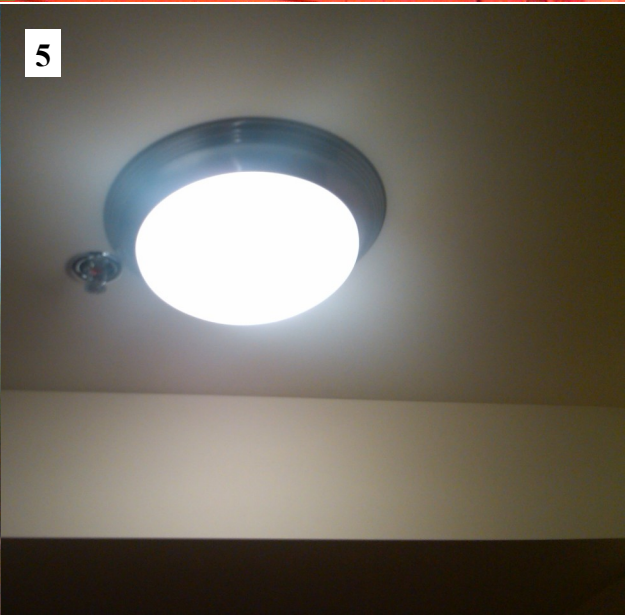
### Ask the parents

- ☐ Are there working [smoke alarms](#) on every level, inside and outside each sleeping area? Are the alarms interconnected?
- ☐ Do they have a well-rehearsed [fire escape plan](#) that includes two ways out and a meeting place outside?
- ☐ Where will your child be sleeping? Is there a smoke alarm in the room? Are there two escape routes from the room?
- ☐ Will the parents walk through their escape plan with your child?
- ☐ Do the parents prohibit bedroom [candle](#) use by children?



# TEST YOUR FIRE INSPECTION SKILLS

OSFM staff have identified an issue within these pictures. Can you identify what is wrong?



Photo#1 FA pull station improperly mounted (note ceiling panel). #2 Containers are larger than 40gal and are made of a combustible material with combustible lids. Photo #3 Exit sign on door requiring special knowledge to operate. Photo #4 Visual obstruction of exit door. Photo #5 Obstruction of sprinkler head.

## ABOVE GROUND STORAGE TANKS: APPLICATION INFORMATION

By: Jack Chatmon,  
Engineer Technician

### Aboveground Storage Tanks

Recently this office has been inundated with calls from individuals and companies who have submitted applications to this office for approval of aboveground storage tanks containing Class I, II, or III flammable and combustible liquids. A number of applications have been rejected due to them not containing sufficient information. The latest issue has been the requirement that the applicant lists an identification number for the tank, which is assigned by the tank manufacturer. Tanks requesting to be approved by this office and permitted through KDHE will not be accepted without this identification number.

This identification number is most often found on the tank's data plate. The presence of the data plate has become an issue lately because several individuals and companies, mainly CO-OPs and private farmers, are requesting to use existing older tanks that have never been approved. A lot of them no longer contain data plates due to them eroding over time or being painted over. Most tank manufacturers this office has contacted will assign the requested tank a temporary I.D. # so that it can pass our application process. The manufacturers will only do this when they are assured that the applicant is going to purchase the tank and not cancel the order.

We have also been made aware that private companies are telling farmers that their ASTs are no longer in compliance due to

the new EPA Energy Act and that the tanks will need to be modified in order to meet current standards. Our office does not enforce EPA regulations regarding aboveground storage tanks; only those regulations listed in *NFPA 30 Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*. Tanks used by farmers on their own private land and not used for retail that are less than 1100 gallons are not required to be approved through this office. This office does not conduct annual inspections of these types of tanks. Questions that arise regarding EPA issues will be directed to EPA first; then if there are NFPA Code questions they cannot answer, they will be directed to the OSFM.

A new tank may be used in place of an existing KDHE permitted tank and not be required to meet the distance requirements (i.e. distance to property line, public way) as long as it is the same size or less and is installed in the exact same location. Aboveground storage tanks required to be approved through this office before they receive a permit through KDHE must be UL 142 listed or meet an equivalent status (i.e. SPCC, API). This still pertains to new tanks that will replace existing tanks in the exact same location. Existing tanks that cannot meet any of these nationally recognized certifications must be recertified by a reputable company. There is also the option of just simply buying a new tank, which seems to be more economical and less of a hassle.

## LOCAL JURISDICTION REPORTS: UNDERSTANDING THE REPORTS

By: Mel Stewart,  
Admin Specialist

### UNDERSTANDING THE REPORT FROM OSFM OF FACILITIES ASSIGNED TO LJ

To the right is an example of the report you receive from OSFM and an explanation of it.

The green underlined KS number is the number your department has been assigned. You will see this number again on the right hand side of the report across from each facility associated to your department.

The yellow highlighted date of April 2, 2012 is when the facilities listed below this date are scheduled to the LJ department.

These facilities will be preceded with a KIDS# assigned to them by OSFM.

What this KIDS# (circle red below) means: SN27T700 – SN Shawnee, 27s are Child Care Centers, T is for Topeka and 700 signifies this facility is 700<sup>th</sup> Child Care Center in Topeka

USDs are a little different: SN21U900 – SN Shawnee County, 21 Elementary/Middle/High School, USD and their number

USDs or other facilities having multiple buildings will have extensions. The extensions look like SN21U900X1, SN21U900X2

Kansas State Fire Marshal		
Scheduled Inspections by Insp/Date/City (NEW)		
Inspector (Staff ID) = "KS101"		
Time	Occupancy/Address	Inspection Type/Inspector
<b>Inspections for: McNorton, Brenda A</b>		
<b>Mon Apr 2, 2012</b>		
<b>TOPEKA</b>		
	SN21U900 USD 900 FIRE MARSHAL 700 SW JACKSON TOPEKA, KS 66603	LJR Local Jurisdiction Routine Inspector: <u>KS101 McNorton, Brenda A</u> Phone:
	SN21U900X1 USD 900 FIRE MARSHAL HIGH 700 SW JACKSON TOPEKA, KS 66603	LJR Local Jurisdiction Routine Inspector: <u>KS101 McNorton, Brenda A</u> Phone:
	SN21U900X2 USD 900 FIRE MARSHAL MIDDLE SCHOOL 700 SW JACKSON TOPEKA, KS 66603	LJR Local Jurisdiction Routine Inspector: <u>KS101 McNorton, Brenda A</u> Phone:
	SN21U900X3 USD 900 FIRE MARSHAL ELEMENTARY 700 SW JACKSON TOPEKA, KS 66603	LJR Local Jurisdiction Routine Inspector: <u>KS101 McNorton, Brenda A</u> Phone:
	SN27T700 USD 900 FIRE MARSHAL CHILD CARE CENTER 700 SW JACKSON TOPEKA, KS 66603	LJR Local Jurisdiction Routine Inspector: <u>KS101 McNorton, Brenda A</u> Phone:
Total Inspections Scheduled for Date: 5		



A report submitted with date of August 24, 2011 for USD 900 Fire Marshal High. This report would be used to meet requirement of USD 900 Fire Marshal High School (SN21900X1) to be inspected for 2011-2012 school year and be rescheduled to local jurisdiction for April 1, 2013 for 2012-2013 school year. We would prefer a separate report for SN27T700 USD 900 Fire Marshal Child Care Center, but if instructed by local jurisdiction the report submitted for Fire Marshal High could be used to meet this facilities requirement too.

Some of the most commonly seen issues with reports received are matching facilities names and addresses with our records in Fire House.

Please feel free to call or email Mel Stewart at (785) 296-6472 or [Mel.Stewart@ksfm.ks.gov](mailto:Mel.Stewart@ksfm.ks.gov)

## HOW TO INSPECT YOUR PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER:

*By: Stephen Fenske,  
Fire Protection Specialist*

It is important to maintain your facilities fire extinguishers. They are required to be serviced yearly by a company/person qualified to do so. In addition did you know that they also need to have monthly visual inspections? This is required by code but is also a good practice. This way, you have a reasonable assurance that your fire extinguishers are in working order in case of a fire.

- First let's determine who will be responsible for doing the monthly checks. It tends to be easiest this way so that person is held accountable and gets used to it being their responsibility.
- Once that's done get prepared to perform your inspection: a few minutes one time per month (depending of the number of extinguisher you have); a pen (something to permanently write on the tag); possibly a rag or damp cloth (just encase it gets a bit dirty).
- Now that you armed yourself with pen and a rag let's do the monthly inspections. As you approach the fire extinguisher, your first check will be to see if it is readily available, not blocked by any objects or difficult to get to in any ways. It should be mounted and there should be a sign above it that shows there is a fire extinguisher in that location. If anything is blocking access to the fire extinguisher, now is the time to resolve it.
- Your next check will be to pick the fire extinguisher up. If it is a powder type of fire extinguisher, you should give it a shake or two. This can prevent the powder from setting.
- The fourth check is to check for any obvious damage dents, rust, oil, etc. If there is oil or any substance on it, wipe it off with the rag you've armed yourself with before you started. If there is rust or severe abuse, replace it as soon as possible.
- Now you can place the fire extinguisher back where it was mounted. Check to make sure the instructions on it are legible and the label is facing outward. If the label is missing, see about getting a new label or perhaps a whole new fire extinguisher.
- Once it's mounted back and the label is facing outward, double check the pin or safety seal to ensure it is still intact. If it is not intact, you may have to replace the extinguisher.
- We're almost done with the monthly fire extinguisher inspection! Now, check the gauge to see if it is still in the "green" zone. If it isn't call the number on the yearly inspection tag to have the fire extinguisher serviced immediately.
- Finally, make sure the yearly service has been within the last year. The tag should have a month and year that has been hole-punched. Servicing companies mark the year and the month that the check was performed, not when it is due again. Check with your servicing company to ensure this is how they do it so you know what you're looking at. Of course, if it has been over a year since it was serviced, call and schedule it for as soon as possible.

If you have an article that you would like published in the next issue of Prevention Highlights, email [chris.dibbern@ksfm.ks](mailto:chris.dibbern@ksfm.ks)

Your check is all done. Sign your initial and date on the backside of the tag that has spaces for 12 monthly inspections. This shows others and the State Fire Marshal Inspector that your monthly inspections are being done and they are UP-TO-DATE. Some facilities like to document or log this information in their fire safety book. NOW you should be confident that your fire extinguishers are in working order just encase.